

About Ralph Hocking

Nam June Paik

Dec 25. 1976

I recommend Mr. Ralph Hocking to the Professor of SUNY for Video. He is one of the most qualified men for this position, you can find anywhere in this country and the world.

Art and science of Video is young. Therefore we have not yet established the criteria to judge someone's achievement. However, Mr Hocking excells in every cathgory, you can think of in the video-making and video management,

1) Video is...unlike film or painting... a system-work. It is more like a string quartet, in which at least 4 men must get together and make a communal work by free collaboration, but not by destructive competition. Mr. Hocking has led one of the most successful and sophisticated Video studio in the world for more than five years, which has influenced the emerging video art world from coast to coast.

2) Video is in one word an interface device of hardware and software, a symbiotic syndrome of the fin de siecle of the 20th century. Very few personalities can qualify for this position. Some artists are uncritically for technology-worshippers. Some others are equally blinded by the Neo-Marxistic anti-technology rhetorics, although it was Marx himself, who pushed the more meaningful interface of hardware and software at the last Fin de Ciecle, by re-examining the production-means and ownership of production means. In this point Mr. Hpcking excells almost everybody in the country by having the richest experience of video-synthesis.

Paik-Hocking 2)

designing and its application.

3) Video is the reproductive art by creating the new sense of timing by mixing the barrier of present-past-future.

Thus it has inherited and amplified the old art of photography by adding the component of TIME--(actual and not fictional---)

enriched

Mr. Hocking's experience as the photography has enormously enriched his thinking of video and he is unique in this point among other video artist. His past

oneman shows at Kitichen and Eversen Museum has demonstrated this parameter of his work beyond any doubt.

4) Last, but not least important comes Mr. Hocking's video-tape. You would wonder, why I put this part as the last part.

This is because there is wide-spread prejudice that Video-art is

// videotaped art. //

This is absolutely WRONG. Video is a complex system art, where Live, recent past, instant-playback, manipulation of Macrotime and Microtime and, humanistic and sociologic collaboration itself... yes

A " COMMUNE "

plays the vital work. Mr Hocking made a number of brilliant ~~works~~ <sup>videotapes</sup>. eg his Dance video can qualify to the top of any shows organized in any museums... However, The best VIDEOTAPE is still less than one-half of VIDEO art, especially highly academic institution like SUNY Binghamton. In the search of profoundly academic video art, or video as a new tool for the post-industrial and post-energy-crisis world, You need a man like Ralph Hocking, who has the broadest and profoundest



changing the title to <sup>that of</sup> narrower scope.

In any case please, read the first page of my letter to Hollad American LINE, which reflect;my further thought.

we are looking forward an exciting '77

Paul Newman